

March 12, 2022

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is Constanza Segovia and I am a resident of Hartford and member of Hartford Deportation Defense.

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of:

- [S.B. No. 387](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, but changing the language to include ALL recommendations made by JJPOC including supports and resources allocated to the current ban on suspension and expulsion of children preK-2:
- [S.B. No. 392](#) AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.

I am writing **IN STRONG OPPOSITION** to the following bills:

- [S.B. No. 365](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- [H.B. No. 5418](#) AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- [H.B. No. 5417](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- [S.B. No. 386](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.
- [S.B. No. 16](#) AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

I believe in young people's futures, and in their ability to improve their lives. Incarceration and criminalization of youth does not make ANY community safer but only further traumatizes children and families who instead need our state to provide support that addresses the root causes of being justice-involved.

For undocumented youth in particular, all of these bills would have a catastrophic impact in a minors' ability to adjust their immigration status if a pathway exists. At the federal level, even as a few pathways for relief open, we are seeing a deeper commitment to punish people who have been justice-involved, no matter the gravity of the matter and not taking into consideration what we know about the intersection of policing with racism and implicit bias. For example, the criminalization of undocumented youth can interfere with requests for prosecutorial discretion which is currently being offered as a solid pathway to avoid deportation.

I am testifying in opposition to the bills I listed above because rooted in false claims that Connecticut is experiencing tremendously high rates of crime being committed by youth. This is simply not supported by data. This crime rhetoric is being used to cause fear and push for reforms that, in the end, will result in more Black and Brown youth and low-income White youth becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. This will not provide a solution for any issues related to crime in our state.

I urge you to SUPPORT [S.B. No. 392](#) and [S.B. No. 387](#) with the recommendations submitted by the [Connecticut Justice Alliance](#).

Constanza Segovia

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Hartford CT